No. 2528

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

WRITER.

Hall S. L.

Residence N. Y.

Date Apl 1. 1882

Rec'd " 3 1882

Answered

SUBJECT.

Has recd the order sent him for the "Gerome".

✓

SAMUEL L. HALL,
FINE ART PUBLISHER AND IMPORTER,
767 BROADWAY, N. Y.,
AND
103 STATE STREET, CHICAGO.

Apl 3

2528

NEW YORK, April 1st 1882

F. K. Kauffmann Esq.

Dear Sir.

Your favour of yesterday Enclosing the order of Mr. Corcoran for one copy of "Gérôme" for the Gallery is received.

Your copy will be No. 232, and I will print on the title page, Corcoran Gallery of Art. Washington D.C.

I will send you the six sections next week.

Mr. Corcoran signature is indeed a fine one, and I shall treasure it highly.

Pray accept my warmest thanks for your kind offices in the matter and believe me

Yours Very Truly

S. L. Hall

No. 2529

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

WRITER.

Deschamps C. N.

Residence London (1a Old Bond St)

Date March 23 1882.

Rec'd Apl 5. 1882.

Answered " 11, 1882.

SUBJECT.

Alma Tadema will paint a picture for the Gallery. "The meeting of Cleopatra and Anthony" 15 x 7 ft, for $50.000, or "The feast of Roses" 8 x 6 ft, for $35.000

✓

Recd Apl. 5.
Acknd " 11.

1a Old Bond Street 2529
London.

171, NEW BOND STREET,
(Clarendon Mansions)

March 23d 1882

Gentlemen,

I only arrived in London on Monday last, 20th inst, and immediatly saw Mr Alma Tadema. - As there was very little time to spare, in order that our communication should reach you before the day of the meeting, Tadema proceeded at once to consider the matter. —

He esteems it a great honor that you should be desirous of acquiring one of his pictures, and would wish to be represented ~~at~~ in the "Corcoran Gallery" by his most important work; he therefore has requested me to put before you the two following subjects. —

The first, largest and most important,

is the "Meeting of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra, on the Nile":— Cleopatra is reclining under a canopy, in her State Galley; at her side are her female attendants; at her feet, the priests of (I think), Isis, and the altar.— The attendants in the foreground will be life size; Cleopatra slightly smaller.— Anthony, in his Galley, has met the Royal Barge, and, struck with admiration, has risen from his seat.— At his side is one of his Captains; the galley is filled with oarsmen and Roman soldiers.— Beyond, the Roman fleet; the entrance of the Port; the pier and light house; ships at anchor and at the quays; etc etc.— A most remarquable reconstruction of the Egyptian city and Port.

This picture will measure fifteen feet in length by seven feet in height.— It is the largest and most important picture he has yet undertaken; & he will have to work in a special studio, his own being too small.—

The second subject is "The feast of Roses, under Heliogabalus".— The scene is the banquet hall in the Imperial palace.— At the end is the Emperor's table, raised high above all the others; at a signal given by Heliogabalus, slaves from outside began pelting the guests at the lower tables, with roses; then, one by one the "vela" were drawn, and masses of Roses were showered down smothering the tables and the guests themselves.— The scene represents in

the picture is the struggling of the unfortunate guests under the mass of Roses, whilst Heliogabalus, reclining at his table is looking on. - He is surrounded by his familiars, courtiers, male and female, who are applauding, and mocking the crowd below in their efforts to escape suffocation. — In this picture, the foreground figures will also be life size. — The size of the canvass will be Eight feet long by about five feet six inches high. —

In both pictures, there will be many figures; it is impossible to say how many, but, as Tadema wishes them to be his "chefs d'oeuvre", he will spare no time or expense, to make them worthy

1a Old Bond Street.

171. NEW BOND STREET,
(Clarendon Mansions)

of himself. — Mrs Walters knows well how conscientious he is. —

Both pictures will have to be shown in Europe (London, Paris, Berlin, etc). He can therefore promise neither under three years. —

~~Either~~ ~~Both~~ of these pictures will take ~~up~~ him a very long time, and he will be able to paint very little else; he therefore feels the necessity of asking very high prices for them. — He will accept a commission from you for either one of the following terms: —

"The meeting of Cleopatra and Anthony"
15 feet x 7 feet.
Price $50000 —

and for "the feast of Roses"
8 feet x 5 feet 6.
$35000. —

Considering the sums realized by his much smaller works, I think that the conditions are reasonable. —

I shall be glad to hear from you on the subject, and will communicate your answer to Cadena at once. —

He is sending a portrait and two pictures to the Royal Academy; one of these is his "Diploma", given to the Academy; the other is a commission. —

Believe me, Gentlemen,
Yours very faithfully
Charles W. Deschamps

To the Fine Art Committee
of the "Corcoran Art Gallery"
Washington.
U.S.

No. 2530

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART FILES.

WRITER.

Coale S. A. Jr.

Residence St Louis.

Date Apl 8, 1882.

Rec'd " 11, 1882.

Answered

SUBJECT.

About the purchase of the Regnault picture

V

2530

Recd Apl. 11th

St. Louis, Apl. 8/82.

Wm. MacLeod, Esq.,
Curator, etc.,

Dear Sir:

Your courteous letter of the 14th ult. came duly to hand, and would have been acknowledged ere this but for the fact that it got mislaid. The French Government has just offered me $15.000 (75 000 frs.) for my painting by Regnault, which I have declined, preferring to keep it myself unless I can get $20.000 for it. How the damn goals who represented your gallery at the sale permitted this great painting (the greatest in the country) to pass into other hands at such an insignificant price is inexplicable. You must have had on that Committee the fellow that has just paid $3500 for one of Van Marcke's Bulls — truly a step from the sublime to the ridiculous. Slough these old fogies off, and get young, enterprising, intelligent men in their stead, and your gallery then some day may amount to something. As it is a more miserable lot of trash I never saw in a public gallery.

Yours truly,

S. A. Coale, Jr.